

providing a detection element to be used for detecting an amount of processing when specific processing is performed on the head material; an electrode for electrically connecting the detection element to an external device; and a conductor for electrically connecting the electrode to the detection element; and forming the electrode in the inter-row section.--

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 are pending. By this Amendment, the Title and Abstract are amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Tugbang and Examiner Nguyen during the November 21, 2002 personal interview.

Reconsideration based on the Following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Title Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the Title based on informalities. The Title is amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the Title is respectfully requested.

II. The Abstract Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the Abstract based on informalities. The Abstract is amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. As explained during the November 21 personal interview, the recitation of "an inter-row cutting section" at line 3 of claim 3 and "an intra-row cutting section" at line 4 of claim 3 refer to two different sections. Thus, claim 3 is clear as written. During the personal interview, Examiner Nguyen agreed to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Barrager et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,710,235). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Barrager does not disclose a method of manufacturing a thin film magnetic head material including, *inter alia*, forming an electrode in an inter-row cutting section, as recited in claim 3.

The Office Action asserts that Barrager discloses "an inter-row cutting (212A, 212B, Fig. 7A) section". However, Fig. 7A illustrates a portion of the substrate 210 shown in Fig. 7B, and Fig. 7B illustrates only a single row of head elements 211 disposed on the substrate 210. Because Fig. 7B shows only a single row of head elements, an inter-row cutting section can not be possibly illustrated in Fig. 7A.

Further, the Office Action uses both Figs. 7A/7B and Figs. 8A/8B of Barrager to reject the claims. However, Figs. 7A/7B and Figs. 8A/8B illustrate two different structures and embodiments of the invention disclosed in Barrager. Thus, Barrager does not disclose a single embodiment that anticipates all of the features of the claimed invention.

During the personal interview, Examiner Tugbang agreed that the rejection over Barrager needs to be clarified in a subsequent Office Action. As discussed above, Barrager does not disclose an inter-row cutting section, and in particular does not disclose an electrode formed in an inter-row cutting section.

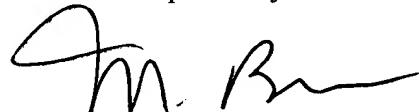
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 is patentable over Barrager. Claim 4 is likewise patentable over Barrager for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features it recites. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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